

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Previously Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-
4 lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-
5 cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic
6 normally carried by the PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or
7 other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC).

- 1 2. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein one or
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

- 1 3. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said
2 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central of-
3 fices, tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless
4 bandwidth as an alternative communication path.

- 1 4. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.

- 1 5. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone
3 network.

- 1 6. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public
3 switched telephone network.

1 7. (Previously Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave
2 network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the
3 steps of:

- 4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,
5 said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;
6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless interof-
7 fice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN between
8 two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an incum-
9 bent local exchange carrier (ILEC).

1 8. (Previously Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a
2 public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:
3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-
4 lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-
5 cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic
6 normally carried by the PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem switches or
7 other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or
8 more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier
9 other than said ILEC.

1 9. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein one or
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 10. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said
2 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of its central offices,
3 tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless band-
4 width as an alternative communication path.

1 11. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.

1 12. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone
3 network.

1 13. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said
2 wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public
3 switched telephone network.

1 14. (Previously Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave
2 network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the
3 steps of:

4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,
5 said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;

6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless interof-
7 fice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN between
8 one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an incum-
9 bent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or more central offices, tandem switches or
10 other premises controlled by a common carrier other than said ILEC.